

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1, 3-10, and 12-17 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3-10, and 12-17 have been amended and Claims 2 and 11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the changes to Claims 1 and 10 may be found at least on page 30, lines 7-20 of the specification. Amendments to Claims 3-9 and 12-17 merely clarify language therein. No new matter is added.

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10, 11 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP59-189730U, hereinafter JP '730. Claims 3, 4, 9, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '730.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10, 11 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP '730, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these rejections and traverses the rejections.

As set forth in the Office Action JP '730 discloses leg pieces 18, 19 or 24, 25 attached between supporting block 13 and base 14. Leg pieces 18, 19 or 24, 25 increase in distance in a direction from the supporting block 13 to the base 14.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to add the recitation that the supporting member is formed of a bent or folded spring steel plate having uniform thickness and that the leg pieces include reinforcement portions whereby elastic deformation of the leg pieces is restrained. These features clearly distinguish over JP '730. The leg pieces 18, 19 of JP '730 are not of a spring steel plate having uniform thickness but are comprised of plural members having reduced thickness at hinged points 18a, 19a, 18b, 19b. Similarly, the leg pieces 24, 25 are separate members connected by reduced portions 26a, 26b, 27a, 27b. Also, the leg pieces 18, 19 or 24, 25 of JP '730 do not have reinforcement portions to restrain any elastic

deformation. Therefore, Claims 1 and 10 clearly distinguish over the device of JP '730 and are allowable. Further, a review of the prior art cited in the Office Action reveals no leg pieces having these characteristics. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to provide JP '730 with reinforcement portions or formed of a spring steel plate being bent or folded. The allowance of Claims 1 and 10 is respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims 3-10 and 12-17 are allowable for the reasons set forth above with respect to Claims 1 and 10. Therefore, the allowance of dependent Claims 3-10 and 12-17 is respectfully requested.

Finally, the specification has been amended at pages 12 and 13 to correct obvious typographical errors.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable Action to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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